

From skateboarding to the barber shop

A WEALTH of tradition and old-world charm inspired 27-year-old skateboarder and graphic artist Luke Newman to take up a barber apprenticeship.

Mr Newman, who works at the Morningside Barbershop, developed a love for the traditional barbershop during a skateboard safari in the United States.

“I was living next to a barbershop in the US and it dawned on me that I passionately wanted to be a barber.”

Mr Newman said the transition had not been easy as he was considered for a mature-aged apprenticeship and received apprentice wages.

He said this meant moving back in with his parents.

“It’s all been worthwhile. The old-world barbershop is a great environment and every day I’m learning something new about the trade,” Mr Newman said.

Sarina Russo Apprenticeship Services general manager Kevin Jarick said Mr Newman was a great role model for mature-aged people looking to enter a trade.

“Luke is fortunate he has a boss who understands the need to create a learning environment where he is treated as a learner and a valuable employee” Mr Jarick said.

“If employers want employees who are better educated and more aware, they need to contribute to their learning,” he said.

“The apprenticeship system gives people an opportunity to do real work and receive real pay while undertaking relevant training.”

Mr Jarick said employers were looking to attract and retain reliable, motivated people to fill the skills shortage.

He said apprentices also needed to resist the lure of short-term, full-time money.

“The benefits of completing their trade will put them in a more advantageous position in the long-term.”



Cutting-edge .. Luke Newman puts his skateboard to good use